

shall provide to the contractor and any specifically named affiliates written notice in accordance with FAR 9.406-3(c). A copy of the notice shall be provided to the DOS officer who made the referral and to each DOS organizational elements affected by the determination.

(3) When a determination is made not to initiate action, the debarring official shall so advise the DOS officer who made the referral.

(d) *Debarring official's decision.* In addition to complying with FAR 9.406-3(d) and FAR 9.406-3(e), the debarring official shall provide single copies of the decision to each DOS organizational element affected by the decision and to the General Services Administration in accordance with 609.404.

[53 FR 26165, July 11, 1988; 53 FR 36461, Sept. 20, 1988]

609.407 Suspension.

609.407-1 General.

The Procurement Executive is the agency head's designee for the purposes of FAR 9.407-1(d).

609.407-3 Procedures.

(a) *Investigation and referral.* Investigation and referral shall be accomplished as provided in 609.406-3(a), except that referrals made to the suspending official shall cite causes pertinent to a suspension action (see FAR 9.407-2).

(b) *Decisionmaking process.* (1) If the contractor does not respond to a notice of suspension within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice, the suspending official may proceed with completion of investigation.

(2) The DOS decisionmaking process for a suspension action pursuant to FAR 9.407-3(b) follow those established for a debarment action (see 609.406(b)), except that the contractor may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the fact-finding panel only if permitted under FAR 9.407-3(b)(2).

(c) *Notice of suspension.* Notice of suspension shall be accomplished as provided in 609.406-3(a), except that the suspending official shall process the notice in accordance with FAR 9.407-3(c).

(d) *Suspending official's decision.* In addition to complying with FAR 9.407-3(d), the suspending official shall provide single copies of the decision to each DOS organizational element affected by the decision and to the General Services Administration in accordance with 609.404.

Subpart 609.5—Organizational Conflicts of Interest

609.503 Waiver.

The Procurement Executive is the agency head's designee for the purposes of FAR 9.503.

PART 610—SPECIFICATIONS, STANDARDS, AND OTHER PURCHASE DESCRIPTIONS

AUTHORITY: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 22 U.S.C. 2658.

610.002 Policy.

610.002-70 Metric system implementation.

(a) *Policy.* The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-418) requires Federal agencies to establish implementing guidelines pursuant to metric policy established under Sec. 5164 of the Act to adopt the metric system as the preferred system of weights and measurements for United States trade and commerce. This subsection establishes the Department of State metric conversion guidelines for transition from the traditional system to the metric system of weights and measurements.

(b) *Applicability.* This subsection applies to all DOS procurements, except to the extent that such use is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms.

(c) Definitions.

Dual systems means the use of both traditional and metric systems. For example, an item is designated, produced and described in inch-pound values with soft metric values also shown for information or comparison.

Hard metric means the use of only standard metric (SI) measurements in specifications, standards, supplies and services.

Hybrid systems means the use of both traditional and hard metric values in specifications, standards, supplies and services. For example, an engine with internal parts in metric dimensions and external fittings or attachments in inch-pound dimensions.

Measurement sensitive means any item whose application or meaning depends substantially on some measured quantity. For example, measurement sensitive items include product or performance criteria and standards binding on others, such as emission levels, size and weight limitations on items in commerce.

Metrication means any act that increases metric system use, including metric training and initiation or conversion of measurement-sensitive processes and systems to the metric system.

Metric system means the International System of Units (Le System International d'Unites (SI)) of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. The units are listed in Federal Standard 376A, Preferred Metric Units for General Use by the Federal Government.

Soft metric means the result of mathematical conversion of inch-pound measurements to metric equivalents in specifications, standards, supplies and services. The physical dimensions, however, are not changed.

Traditional system of weights and measurements means the predominant weight and measurement system currently used in the United States, also referred to as the "inch-pound system". The traditional system includes such commonly used units as inch, foot, yard, mile, pint, quart, gallon, bushel, ounce (fluid and avoirdupois), pound, degree Fahrenheit, ampere, candela, and second.

(d) *Procedures.* (1) DOS contracting activities shall implement the metric system in a manner consistent with Pub. L. 100-418.

(2) All DOS contracting activities shall use the metric system in procurement consistent with security, operations, economic, technical, logistical, training and safety requirements.

(3) The Department shall encourage industry to adopt the metric system, by acquiring commercially available

metric products and services that meet the Department's needs whenever practical. Toward this end, solicitations for DOS acquisitions shall:

(i) State all measurement sensitive requirements in metric terms whenever possible. Alternatives to hard metric are soft, dual and hybrid metric terms. The Metric Handbook for Federal Officials regarding the selection of proper metric units and symbols is available for the National Technical Information Service (#PB89-226922); and

(ii) Contracting officers shall return all statements of work/specifications that are not expressed in some form of metric terms to the requirements office that prepared the documents, if the contract is expected to exceed \$500,000, unless the requirements office has forwarded to the contracting activity for approval, in a waiver format prescribed by the head of the contracting activity, a justification for the use of non-metric specifications/statements of work. Option year prices shall be considered when computing the \$500,000 threshold.

(4) Waivers are not required when ordering from Federal Supply Schedules, or if the contract is not expected to exceed \$500,000.

(5) Valid justifications for non-metric specifications/word statements include, but are not limited to:

(i) Existing specifications and standards in inch-pound units, unless conversions is necessary or advantageous to the Government. Unnecessary retrofit of existing systems with new metric components shall be avoided if the total cost of the retrofit, including redesign costs, exceeds \$50,000;

(ii) When metric is not the accepted industry system with respect to a business-related activity, soft metric, hybrid or dual system may be used during transition to hard metric; and

(iii) When the use of metric is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms.

(6) The contracting officer shall review and, if acceptable, approve the waiver prepared by the requirements office prior to the release of a solicitation that incorporates a specification that is not written in some form of